

Appl. No. 10/802,545

Response Dated September 18, 2006

Reply to Office Action Dated May 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-67 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3, 11, 33, 41 and 55 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has accepted the drawings filed on March 17, 2004.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has replaced the term 'drillstring' on line 4 of Claim 1 with "drillstring." Claims 3, 11, 33, 41 and 55 have been amended to remove duplication of the word "the." It is submitted that these amendments merely correct typographical errors and do not constitute new matter

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US20040149431 to Wylie. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Wylie fails to teach each of the limitations of the claimed invention and, therefore, fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

The Claims relate to techniques for well planning in response to input data including wellbore geometry and wellbore trajectory requirements. The Claims recite, *inter alia*, generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to input data. As described in Applicant's specification, automatic drillstring design is provided based on wellbore geometry and trajectory requirements. *See, US20050211468 at paragraph [0002]*.

The Examiner asserts that Wylie discloses recording and displaying means for (0146) generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section in response to data (0167), generating

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a diameter of the first and second drill collar (0124) with respect to the drift diameter, generating an outer diameter of a heavy drillstring for various sized boreholes (0021, 0022), generating weight on the bit (0258), first collar or section (324) and second collar (318) of the drill string, generating lengths for the first and second collars or sections (0257), determining tension (0426), cost (0225) and kick tolerance (0213). *See Office Action, p. 2.* While Wylie may describe certain components of the drillstring, Wylie fails to teach or even suggest generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to wellbore geometry and wellbore trajectory. Since Wylie fails to teach each limitation of the Applicant's claims, Wylie fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Wylie's invention relates to a method and apparatus for constructing a monowell. *See Wylie, abstract.* The techniques described by Wylie involve optimizing drilling practices by analyzing real-time measurements and making adjustments to the drilling operating parameters without changing out the drill string. *See Wylie, paragraph [00165].* Wylie focuses on reaching the desired location by comparing actual data to a well plan to allow for immediate changes in direction rather than delayed corrections. *See Wylie, paragraph [0167].* Applicant can locate no disclosure in Wylie relating to the generation of a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to said input data as recited in the claims. Wylie fails to even contemplate using wellbore geometry and wellbore trajectory as inputs to generate a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore as recited in the claims. Thus, Wylie fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. Applicant, therefore, requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006, for which the three-month date for response is August 22, 2006. Applicant petitions for a one month extension of time, bringing the date for response to September 22, 2006. Please apply any charges not covered or any credits, to Deposit Account 07-1078 (Reference Number 94.0076).

Date: 9/18/06

Respectfully submitted,

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